

REMARKS

Claims 9, 19, 20, 22-25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38-43, 45-47 and 50 are pending in this application. Claims 9, 19, 23, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 36, 41 and 42 are independent claims.

By this amendment, claims 1-8, 10, 12-18, 26, 29, 30, 33, 34, 48 and 49 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto, so as to place the present application in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication on page 11 of the Decision On Appeal that the decision of the Examiner rejecting claims 9, 19, 20, 22-25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38-43, 45-47 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) **is reversed**.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9, 19, 20, 22-25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38-43, 45-47 and 50 are now in condition for allowance.

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st PARAGRAPH IS MOOT

The final Office Action rejected claims 1-10, 12-18, 29 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-noted rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-8, 10, 12-18, 29 and 33, and the **Board's reversal** of the Examiner's rejection with regards to claim 9.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10, 12-18, 29 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph is respectfully requested.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) ARE MOOT

The final Office Action rejected:

(1) claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,687,332 to Kurahashi et al. (hereafter Kurahashi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,280 to Cok et al. (hereafter Cok) and U.S. Patent No. 5,933,584 to Maniwa (hereafter Maniwa);

(2) claims 29 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurahashi in view of Cok and U.S. Patent No. 5,764,235 to Hunt et al.(hereafter Hunt);

(3) claims 26, 30, 34-36, 38-43, 45-48 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurahashi in view of Cok;

(4) claims 5-7 and 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt in view of Cok and Maniwa;

(5) claims 19, 20, 22-24, 27, 28, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt in view of Cok;

(6) claims 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,720,013 to Uda et al. in view of Maniwa and Cok;

(7) claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt in view of Maniwa, Cok and Uda; and

(8) claim 49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Uda in view of Maniwa, Cok and U.S. Patent No. 5,926,154 to Hirono.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-noted rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-8, 10, 12-18, 26, 29, 30, 33, 34, 48 and 49, and the **Board's reversal** of the Examiner's rejections with regards to claims 19, 20, 22-25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38-43, 45-47 and 50. (see Decision On Appeal, page 11).

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 5-8, 10, 12-20, 22-36, 38-43 and 45-50 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance with claims 9, 19, 20, 22-25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38-43, 45-47 and 50. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner (Reg. No. 41,345) at (703) 205-8000 **to schedule a Personal Interview.**

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment from or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, the extension of time fees.

Dated: February 12, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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